

ABSTRACT

A safety guard is described for use with sharp instruments, particularly with medical venipuncture instruments, and more particularly with hypodermic syringes. The safety guard uses a hinged single-piece assembly in which the safety guard is held in a locked position with a series of lugs formed as part of the base of the device and a series of tabs formed as part of the longitudinal member of the device. This arrangement makes the device especially resistant to the application of transverse or torsional forces. The longitudinal member further includes an opening lip that allows the guard to be opened easily without exposing the practitioner to the sharp end of the instrument. A permanent locking mechanism is provided so that the safety guard may be locked in place after use to prevent reuse of the instrument.

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